

S  
362.6005  
T 370  
Vol. No. 4  
1977

# SPOT - CHECK

News of Boulder River School & Hospital

Vol. 1, No. 9

March 31, 1977

Dear Parents,

Since the last time I have written, we have been visited by the Joint House/Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee for Institutions. They included: Rep. Harold Gerke, Chairman, Billings; Sen. Elmer Flynn, Missoula; Rep. Harry Hansen, Frenchtown; Sen. Mark Etchart, Glasgow; Rep. Art Lund, Scobey; and Rep. Howard Ellis, Missoula.

I was pleased that the entire committee was able to tour our facility. It gave each of them the opportunity to ask questions. I believe the better informed our legislators are, then the greater our chances are of being funded to a level where we can continue to provide quality services to our handicapped.

## LETTER TO THE APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE - FROM, ROBERT D. EASTER, MEMBER OF THE BRS&H PARENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

I am aware that, as parents of the developmentally disabled, you understand the special requirements of our handicapped; requirements that can not adequately be met if we are not properly funded in this legislative session. Recently I read a letter written by Robert Easter to the Legislative Appropriations Committee. His letter clearly identified the problems connected with the proposed budget cuts for Boulder River School and Hospital. In it he stated, "I would suppose the tendency is natural enough to think if one subtracts 400 from 700, the new appropriations should be 3/7ths of the former. In truth however, the remaining residents at BRS&H are those whose needs are the greatest; the same group that needed the expanded staff in terms of counseling, physical therapy, group therapy, speech therapy, etc. Those who have departed are obviously those that need it the least."

Thank you for your letter, Mr. Easter. It is indeed encouraging to know that we have support from someone who is so well informed.

JUN 15 77

## STATE DOCUMENTS

### SWEETHEART BALL AND BANQUET

One of the events that the residents at Boulder River School and Hospital look forward to is the annual Sweetheart Ball and Banquet. This year's event was a singular success beginning with a turkey dinner. The group then went to the gymnasium which had been decorated with hearts and streamers by the Recreation Department. Here they danced to the live music provided by the Butte Musicians Union.

### JOINT COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION OF HOSPITALS

Recently we have been preparing for a survey to be completed by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH). Accreditation differs from licensing, which is an activity usually concerned with enforcing standards of health and safety. JCAH develops nationally recognized quality standards that are representative of many professional and consumer organizations who are working to improve services to developmental disabled persons. According to JCAH for a facility to be accredited, it must, "Be providing active, interdisciplinary habilitation programming for each resident within a normalized and normalizing environment, utilizing policies and practices that assure the rights of the resident and their families, employing effective administrative practices, and maintaining a safe and sanitary environment."

It is our hope that after the survey is completed, we will be granted accreditation. However, more is to be gained than just JCAH approval. The survey will provide an objective evaluation that can help guide the administrators in upgrading the programs so that we can continue to improve upon our services.

### LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATION

On January 26 and 27, the Administration at Boulder River School and Hospital presented its budget to the Legislative Fiscal Committee for review. Rusty Redfield, Community Director, updated the committee on what had taken place at the institution for the past two fiscal



3 0864 1006 2870 3

years. His talk centered around resident population movement, increased levels of training, and needs of the residents remaining at the institution. Rusty's talk was followed by Tom Dolan, Personnel Director, who spoke about the personnel requirements for the next two fiscal years. He explained that it would require 587.4 positions for a predicted range of 267 to 240 residents for fiscal year 1977-78 and 549.4 positions for an estimated 250 to 255 residents for fiscal year 1978-79. The final presentation was given by Ray Hoffman, Director of Administrative Support. He outlined the required budget to support the recommended staff and expenditures for the next two years. Ray stated that for fiscal year 1977-78, Boulder River School and Hospital would require an estimated \$8,498,834 and \$8,370,550 for fiscal year 1978-79.

#### RECENT PURCHASES

Cottage furniture purchases for the month of February include: two full length couches and one love seat in Cottage 11; one full length couch, two love seats, two overstuffed chairs, two end tables and two oval rugs in Cottage 12; and two full length couches, one lounge chair and one lamp in Cottage 3.

As further developments occur, I will continue to keep you informed.

Sincerely yours,

William Conyard  
Superintendent

#### SPOT-CHECK

Vol. 1, No. 9

March 31, 1977

Published at Boulder River School & Hospital, Box 87, Boulder, MT 59632  
 Superintendent . . . . . William Conyard  
 Editor . . . . . Steve Marks  
 Production . . . . . Larry Kerzenmacher

Boulder River School & Hospital  
 P. O. Box 87  
 Boulder, MT 59632

Bulk Rate U.S. Postage  
 7.5 cents per ounce  
 Boulder, MT 59632  
 Permit No. 2

Documents Library  
 Montana State Library  
 930-East Lyndale  
 Helena MT, 59601